

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

## No Matter What / Week 3

<p><i>“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”</i></p> <p>1 John 1:9 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 1</b></p> <p>Sometimes it feels like we’ve said too much, done too much, or made too many mistakes. In other words, we feel we’re unforgivable. We think about our actions and choices and feel nothing but shame and guilt. If that’s you, here’s the good news: Easter reminds us we’re forgiven no matter what. God promises that when we confess our sins to Him, He will forgive us for everything. And Jesus’ death and resurrection made that possible. So today, take some time to confess some mess ups or failures to God. Pray that He would help you begin to believe and receive His forgiveness.</p>
<p><i>“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”</i></p> <p>Colossians 3:13 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 2</b></p> <p>One of the most amazing things about God is that He forgives us, no matter what. And because we are forgiven, we can give the same grace to others. God wants us to go out and forgive the people in our lives who need it. He wants us to give our forgiveness to others not always because they deserve it or even ask for it, but because it shows them more of who He is. It allows them to feel and experience His love, too. Who is someone that you need to forgive? Think about how you can forgive that person. Maybe it’s only in your heart or maybe it’s through a conversation. Ask God to help you take a step to forgive this week!</p>
<p><i>“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”</i></p> <p>Matthew 6:14 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <p>Sometimes forgiving others is hard to do! When someone has done something to hurt you again and again, forgiveness can be difficult. Add in the fact that sometimes people don’t ask for forgiveness, and that makes it even harder. Still, God asks us to forgive. Not because we need to forget about it, or move on, or let the other person get away with bad decisions. No, God asks us to forgive because He loves us. He wants what’s best for us. And He knows that forgiveness is part of that equation. So today, pray and ask God to help you forgive. Ask Him to remind you that it’s not just about what’s good for the other person; it’s about what’s good for you, too!</p>

#### DAY 4

*“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.”*

Psalm 103:12 NLT

Do you know what the writer is talking about in this verse? Do you know how far the east is from the west? Really far! In fact, it's so far that we can't even measure the distance! Why does that matter? Well because it's how much God doesn't hold our sin, failures, or mess ups against us. He moves them so far away that we can't even reach them again because He has forgiven us, no matter what. Spend some time today thanking God for His forgiveness. Then, write down a list of a few other things you are thankful for about God. Spend some time in prayer, thanking Him for who He is and how He loves us.

#### DAY 5

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Romans 6:23 NLT

This verse is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. Why? Because it tells us that because of Jesus—because of what He did for us at Easter—our failures, mistakes, and sins don't stop us from being close to, known, and loved by God. We can live forever with Him after we die. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more or less. Today, share this verse with someone you know that may not be close to God. Ask them what they believe about God, and if possible, share your story with them. Encourage them to remember that they are loved, important, and forgiven by God no matter what.

#### DAY 6

*“O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.”*

Psalm 86:5 NLT

Sometimes our mistakes and failures come with some consequences that aren't fun or enjoyable. We get grounded, or kicked off the team, or punished by our parents as a consequence for what we've done wrong. And even if we understand why we face the consequence, it can still leave us feeling defeated or upset. In these times, God promises to be with us no matter what. When we ask God for help, He will remind us of His unfailing love. He has forgiven us, and even as we face the consequence or reality of our mistakes, His love stays with us. Write this verse down today. Every time you feel as though you're in it alone, look to this verse to remind you that God's love never fails.

#### DAY 7

*“This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”*

1 John 4:10 NLT

Sometimes we don't know how to talk to God. We don't know the words to say, or how to pray, or what to even talk to Him about when we spend time with Him. If that's ever been the case for you, remember that Scripture can be a great place to start. Memorize this verse this week and use it as a way to speak to God. Pray it to Him, talk to Him about it, or even ask Him to help you understand it more. Use it as a way to help you start a conversation with God!